



Emerging Occupations

collaboration with state agencies, collects data on occupations, wages, and staffing patterns within industries. Supplemental pages are provided with the OES form that allows employers to report job titles that are not on the standardized list for their industry. If these occupations do not correspond to one of the SOC codes, they are designated to a residual code in a major occupational group and submitted to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) publishes an expanded occupational taxonomy based on the SOC. A methodology for identifying new and emerging occupations was established by O*NET, although the new and emerging occupations are not meant to predict what occupations will emerge. Through taking a snapshot of the labor market, and comparing it to their criteria, growing occupations that currently exist and cannot be classified elsewhere can be identified.

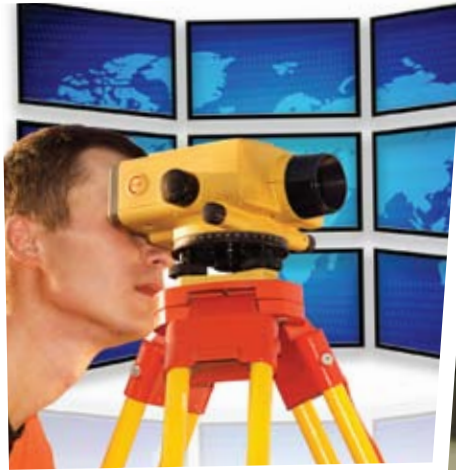
In June 2007, O*NET released a list of 102 new and emerging occupations which were approved for further data collection. The occupations were from the following industry sectors: advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, construction, energy, financial, geospatial, healthcare, hospitality, information technology, retail and transportation. The occupations within these sectors will be examined and considered for inclusion into the O*NET-SOC taxonomy.

It is important to note that not all occupations designated as new or emerging will actually become permanent occupations. The skill set for a new occupation can be subsumed by an existing occupation and there will no longer be a need for the new distinct occupation. A new technology, service or product may be created and there is little or no demand for it. Or the number of individuals in the occupation may never grow past a point to justify its inclusion as a permanent occupation. Nevertheless, new and emerging occupations can provide many opportunities for individuals seeking new and cutting-edge careers. ①

The economy is dynamic and so are its occupations. Like the economy, occupations also change and evolve. The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines new occupations as those that “are becoming numerically important or emerging due to technological change and are specific to the new or emerging industries they are born to.” A number of other factors also contribute to emerging occupations, such as demographics, laws, business practices, and consumer preferences.

The first occupational classification system was established with the 1850 Census. As time progressed, so did the nature of business and the occupations needed to do business. The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) is the current exhaustive classification system for occupations. The SOC was last revised in 2000 and currently includes over 820 occupations. The next revision of the SOC is scheduled for 2010. Data is gathered from a number of sources to determine which and if new occupations should be included in the revision.

Through the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in



Examples of New and Emerging Occupations

| Job Title | Industry Sector | Definition |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Biochemical Engineers | Biotechnology | Apply knowledge of engineering science principles to biological materials, processes, and systems to create new products such as vaccines and foods. |
| Patient Representatives | Healthcare | Assist patients in obtaining services, understanding policies and making health care decisions. |
| Geospatial Information Systems Technicians | Geospatial | Assist scientists, technologists, and related professionals in building, maintaining, modifying, and using geographic information systems (GIS) databases. May also perform some custom application development and provide user support. |

Source: O*NET